

Box tree moth

Cydalima perspectalis

Overview

Box tree moth is native to East Asia and was accidentally introduced to the U.S. on infested boxwoods from Ontario, Canada, in 2021. Though establishment is uncertain, it has been detected in Connecticut, Michigan, and South Carolina. Its primary hosts are boxwoods (*Buxus* spp.) with euonymus (*Euonymus* spp.) and hollies (*Ilex* spp.) as potential hosts. It has 1-5 generations per year, warmer climates have more generations.



Damage

Ferenc Lakatos, University of Sopron, Bugwood.org

Life Stages

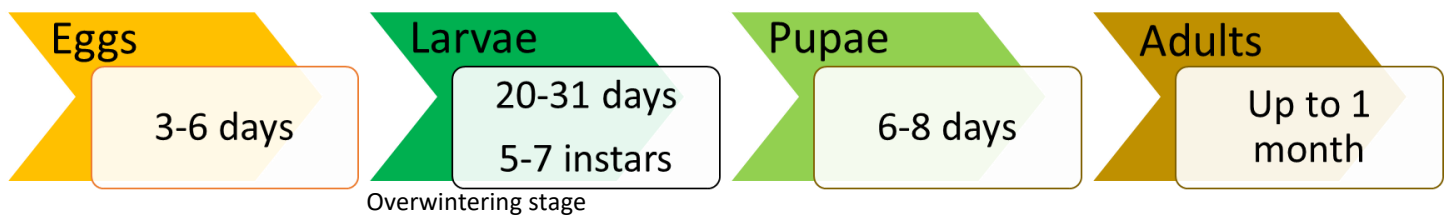
Eggs are deposited on the underside of leaves in a yellow, overlapping translucent gelatinous mass of 5-20 eggs. Females lay over 42 clutches in their life.

Larvae feed on leaves and bark, causing defoliation and girdling. They are up to 1.5 in. (4 cm) long, yellow-green with black stripes and white spots and hairs, and a shiny black head. If a winter generation, they overwinter for 6-8 weeks.

Pupae are in webbed cocoons well hidden among leaves. They are 0.6-0.8 in. (1.5-2 cm) long and green to light brown with a dark brown pattern as they mature.

Adults generally have white slightly iridescent wings that have a dark brown band around the edges and a white spot on the forewings. Dark morphs occasionally (5-10%) appear, they are all brown, but still have the white forewing spot.

Life Cycle

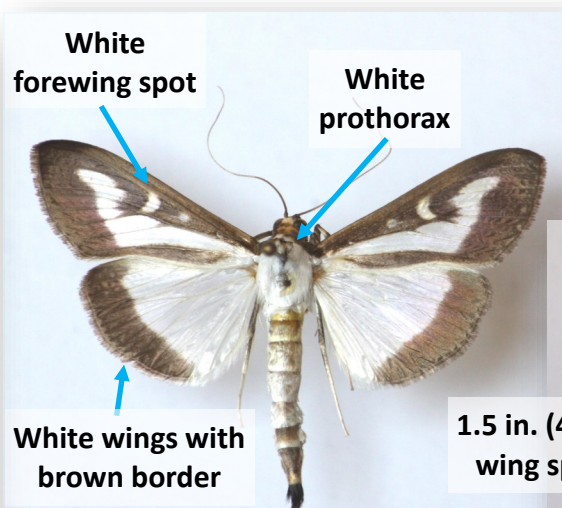


Larva



Ferenc Lakatos, University of Sopron, Bugwood.org

Adults



S. Sáfián, University of West Hungary, Bugwood.org (Adults)

Lookalike (not pictured)

Melonworm (*Diaphania hyalinata*), this moth is missing the white spot on the forewings and has solid brown prothorax (region behind head).

